

- Fax Alert -

Interoperable Communications Equipment Authorized Under Department of Homeland Security Grant Program

On March 3, 2003, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that states and territories may now apply, through DHS' Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), for nearly \$600 million in grant funding to assist local law enforcement and other public safety first responders. **States and territories have until April 22, 2003, to complete and submit applications for the FY 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).**

The SHSGP grant guidelines emphasize that states should allocate the monies in accordance with their homeland security strategy (formerly called the state domestic preparedness strategy) and obligate funds to local jurisdictions within an established time period. The SHSGP grant will fund state and local emergency responders to address critical needs in four key areas—

- Equipment Acquisition
- Training
- Exercise
- Planning and Administration.

***“No man,
woman, or child
should lose his
or her life
because public
safety officials
cannot talk to
one another.”***

In addition, **interoperable communications equipment is listed as allowable under the equipment acquisition area.** In an effort to further improve public safety interoperability, DHS has stated that grant money used for purchasing new or upgraded radio systems and new radio equipment should be compatible with the Project 25 suite of standards.

Once the application is submitted, it will be reviewed by ODP, and the states will be notified of the status within 7 days. When approved, funds will be available within 3 weeks thereafter. Within 45 days of receiving the funds, the states must award 80 percent of the equipment funding to local units of government.

Application forms for grant awards are posted on the Office of Justice Programs Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm.